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Welcome Remarks, delivered at the Scholarship Luncheon on September 23, 1998

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This is an occasion for gratitude. The University is grateful that scholarships are given to bring good students to our University. Students are filled with appreciation for donors who are helping them, and maybe some relief too that they have found a resource to take them toward their objectives. The donors see bright people preparing to contribute, to make successes of themselves as the donors themselves have. One can be grateful for such a legacy. We are all together – donors, students, and University representatives – for this luncheon of appreciation, and after the food we will celebrate.
In December 1963, an 82-year-old farmer named Eugene J. TenBrink, Sr. walked into Lake Michigan Hall, wearing bib overalls and carrying an envelope. He indicated he wanted to make a contribution to the College and hoped that some students would be able to benefit from his gift. He was thanked and left. When the envelope was finally opened, it was a gift of $10,000 – Mr. TenBrink had cashed in some savings bonds. The proceeds were used by then-President Zumberge to initiate Grand Valley’s endowment.

Mr. TenBrink’s wish was to establish the fund in memory of his mother, Alice G. TenBrink. Together, with his father Henry, she had operated their family farm along the Grand River in Allendale Township, near 76th Avenue. Their farm dated back prior to 1900; Eugene’s father had emigrated to the U.S. after the Civil War. Eugene’s career reflects the work ethic and economic history of our region. He farmed until age 65, then retired from that to work in a piano factory. He died in April 1965, a year-and-a-half after leaving his gift to the region’s newest educational institution.
Now there are 100 named and endowed scholarship funds at Grand Valley, ranging over many fields, covering the curriculum. From these funds 495 students have received awards totaling $310,000 this year. You may be interested to know that 70% of our students receive some form of aid coming from general scholarship funds and the federal government.

The most recent endowment comes from Joseph Apelt who is here today with one of the recipients of his scholarship. Many of you know him. Joe is an outstanding engineer, winning the “Engineer of the Year Award” in the state of Michigan. He served on the Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors for the state for many years. Joe is retired now and paints some of the most beautiful floral watercolors I have ever seen. He also continues to serve on the Padnos School of Engineering Advisory Board. Two or more students entering the Padnos School will be selected each year for the scholarships from the Appelt Endowment. What a great legacy. Joe, we appreciate it now. Thank of how many will in the future.
SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

SEPTEMBER 23, 1998

INTRODUCTION OF JAMES HACKETT

BY PRESIDENT LUBBERS

Jim Hackett epitomizes the Steelcase way of operating. Give all your energy, intelligence, and creativity to make Steelcase preeminent in the field of planning and manufacturing office environments and after you have done that, give more energy, intelligence, creativity and financial support to help people help themselves. Does it surprise you that Steelcase comes across as successful and human? Jim has carried the leader’s torch at Steelcase four years. They have been good years for the company and good years for him. He had time to assimilate the company’s culture and make his contribution to it as he worked his way to his present position after joining the company in 1981.

Steelcase now convinces customers to spend nearly 3 ½ billion dollars on its products and it needs 51 manufacturing facilities on four continents to supply those customers with the goods they buy. That is some success story. Jim has provided the leadership for that to happen.

It is appropriate for the CEO of Steelcase to address this audience, for Steelcase has provided scholarships to students attending Grand Valley from
the beginning. Hundreds of graduates are indebted to the company for contributing to their education, and many are daughters and sons of employees of the company. Steelcase knows how to aid its own.

Jim is also a trustee of the Grand Valley University Foundation, responsible for raising endowment to support scholarships. That is another reason he fits the role as speaker for this occasion. He wasn’t fortunate enough to graduate from Grand Valley since he was persuaded to play football at the University of Michigan. That was before Grand Valley became a football power so we understand. But we are happy he is part of our Foundation team now, and we are honored to have him address this special audience of donors and scholars at this special occasion that brings them together.